

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041339

46

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, JA

SUBJECT: ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEEDING ON SLIDE FASTENERS --
UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (USITC)
EQUALLY DIVIDED IN ITS FINDINGS

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PAGE 02 STATE 041339

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PERTINENT PART OF USITC PRESS

RELEASE ISSUED FEBRUARY 18 ANNOUNCING THAT THE MEMBERSHIP WAS EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF ELIGIBILITY OF DOMESTIC SLIDE FASTENER PRODUCERS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE IMPORT RELIEF PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974: BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION TODAY CONCLUDED ITS INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES BY THE U.S. SLIDE FA-TENER (ZIPPERS) INDUSTRY OF SERIOUS INJURY FROM IMPORTS BY A 3-TO-3 VOTE.

COMMISSIONERS GEORGE M. MOORE, JOSEPH O. PARKER, AND ITALO H. ABLONDI VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND RECOMMENDED THAT ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED AS THE REMEDY FOR SERIOUS INJURY BEING SUSTAINED BY THE SLIDE FASTENER INDUSTRY. COMMISSIONERS WILL E. LEONARD, DANIEL MINCHEW, AND CATHERINE BEDELL FOUND THAT THE INDUSTRY IS NOT SUFFERING SERIOUS INJURY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED IMPORTS. UNDER THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930, AS AMENDED, WHEN THE COMMISSION'S VOTE IS SPLIT AS IN TODAY'S DECISION, THE PRESIDENT MAY CONSIDER EITHER POSITION AS THE OFFICIAL FINDING OF THE COMMISSION.

THE SLIDE FASTENER INDUSTRY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN AVERAGE OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 7,000 JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 1975. EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN ON THE DECLINE SINCE 1972, WHEN MORE THAN 9,000 WORKERS WERE EMPLOYED. SLIDE FASTENERS ARE MANUFACTURED PRIMARILY IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA AND IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES IN NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, VIRGINIA, AND GEORGIA.

JAPAN ACCOUNTS FOR 85 TO 90 PERCENT OF IMPORTS OF SLIDE FASTENERS INTO THE UNITED STATES, WITH VARYING AMOUNTS ALSO ENTERING FROM WEST GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, AND ITALY. IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES IN 1974 TOTALED 146.6 MILLION UNITS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$23.8 MILLION.

END TEXT.

2. EXECUTIVE AGENCIES WILL ANALYZE REPORT AND FORMULATE
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PAGE 03 STATE 041339

A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT MAY ACCEPT, MODIFY OR REJECT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

3. GENEVA AND PARIS INFORM GATT AND OECD SECRETARIATS
RESPECTIVELY.

4. COMMISSION'S REPORT WILL BE AIRPOUCHED ASAP. INGERSOLL

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